

**INFORM****FY 06 — Issue #1****Continuity of service for New Orleans customers**

On 29 August 2005 the U. S. Gulf Coast received a devastating hit from Hurricane Katrina that directly impacted the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama upon its initial land fall.

Although the most violent winds and storm surge passed east of New Orleans by less than 50 miles, the winds were recorded in the city at over 135 miles per hour. In anticipation of the storm, the city officials announced an unprecedented mandatory evacuation.

The GSA Federal Technology Service (FTS) associates' offices are located on the 10th floor of the Hale Boggs Federal Building in the heart of downtown New Orleans. The team implemented the emergency evacuation procedures and headed out of town to their place of safe haven. A majority of the FTS Louisiana team's customers also live and work in the New Orleans metropolitan area. They were similarly impacted by the oncoming storm and scattered to areas of safety and alternate work locations.

Once the storm had passed and the impact was assessed it was clear that a return to normal operations was not imminent. As a result, the FTS regional management and Louisiana team made contact with all customers to advise them of the FTS continuity of operations plan and intent to continue levels of service. Work sites for the Louisiana team members were immediately established within the regional office in Fort Worth, Texas. Effective August 31st, operations were resumed from the Texas location.

... Continued on Page 4 (see "Continuity of service")

Inside this issue

Authority for Inter-agency transactions	2
Associates complete Project Management training	4
LA local telecom services contract	5
GSA Administrator Perry to leave GSA	5
Greater Southwest Region contacts	6

GSA issues guidance on authority for Interagency Transactions

A memorandum dated September 13, 2005 (see Pages 2-3) was prepared jointly between the GSA Office of the General Counsel and the GSA Office of the Chief Financial Officer. This memorandum provides clarity to GSA's authority to enter into Interagency Agreements using the Information Technology Revolving Fund and the General Services Revolving Fund.

GSA's authority for Interagency Agreements is derived from the Property Act and the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (not the Economy Act). Interagency agreements entered into under these authorities are not subject to the fiscal year restrictions contained in the Economy Act. Therefore, for interagency transactions properly entered into, GSA may retain and promptly obligate funds in the following fiscal year.

Other related acquisition policy information can be found at URL:
<http://www.gsa.gov/acquisitionpolicy>

SAVE THESE DATES!
SAVE THESE DATES!



Customers can register online beginning November 1, 2005. Registration is **FREE** to government employees and military members.

For more information visit URL:
<http://www.expo.gsa.gov>



U.S. General Services Administration

September 13, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF SERVICES AND STAFF OFFICES
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
FTS ASSISTANT REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

FROM: ALAN R. SWENDIMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL (L)

KATHLEEN M. TURCO
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (B)

SUBJECT: GSA Authority for Interagency Transactions

The following is a summary of GSA's authority to conduct interagency transactions. This summary is consistent with law and the June 7, 2004 memorandum, "Guidance and Information Concerning Interagency Transactions and Proper Management of Reimbursable Agreements in Revolving Funds."

GSA AUTHORITY FOR INTERAGENCY TRANSACTIONS

GSA's authority for interagency transactions comes from the Property Act, 40 U.S.C. 501, 502 and the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (ITMRA).

GSA's Federal Technology Service finances interagency agreements using the IT Fund or General Supply Fund, revolving funds established by statute to operate without fiscal year limitation, 40 USC 321, 322.

GSA is designated as an Executive agent by the OMB Director under section 5112 of ITMRA, 40 U.S.C. 11302. GSA conducts several government-wide programs to provide IT services to agencies. These programs include the provision of supplies and services under interagency agreements.

Agency use of GSA IT Solutions is subject to the procedures established by GSA pursuant to the OMB designation. GSA IT Solutions interagency agreements are executed under the authority of ITMRA and NOT the Economy Act.

Interagency agreements entered into under the authority of OMB's designation are independent of the Economy Act and are not subject to the fiscal year

1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov

Continued from Page 2 — GSA Chief Counsel and Chief Financial Officer memorandum dated September 13, 2005

- 2 -

restrictions contained in the Economy Act. Consequently, for interagency transactions properly* entered into, GSA may retain and promptly obligate funds in the following fiscal year.

(*An interagency agreement is properly entered into when it is based upon a legitimate, specific and adequately documented requirement representing a bona fide need of the year in which the agreement is made *and* adequate funds of the appropriate type are available at the time of the interagency agreement.)

GSA's authorities do not allow an interagency agreement to be used in the last days of the fiscal year solely to prevent funds from expiring or to keep them available for a requirement arising in the following fiscal year.

GSA must follow all laws and regulations governing Federal acquisitions. For example, a contract for severable services can be for no more than 12 months.

In order for an interagency agreement to be valid, the client Federal agency should:

- (1) ensure the funds are available for obligation,
- (2) GSA and the client Federal agency must sign a binding interagency agreement, and
- (3) the Federal agency MUST have a BONA FIDE, current need for the goods or services to be provided by the GSA at the time the agency enters in to the interagency agreement.

When these criteria are met, GSA may accept the interagency agreement, and the requiring agency may record an obligation. GSA must work expeditiously to fill the customer agency's requirement but is not required to execute a contract or task order prior to the close of the fiscal year.

Continuity of service . . . Continued from Page 1

With the end of year closely approaching, extreme measures needed to be employed to maintain dialogue with displaced customers and industry partners to ensure there were no breaks in service and new tasks or option periods were executed on time. With the Louisiana team in place in Fort Worth and reliance on the remaining FTS regional resources, we were successful in completing the mission.

On October 17th the FTS Louisiana team returned to their work site at the Hale Boggs Federal building in New Orleans. GSA customers are slowly returning to their pre-Katrina operations as is the City of New Orleans. Based on the widespread devastation to the infrastructure, it is anticipated that the rebuilding process will take months if not years and is expected to generate increased business for the FTS team. Although the evacuation moved the industry partner professionals out of the city they are also returning as their facilities become available.

GSA disaster recovery and relief support information is available on building products, services, technology and other important issues. Federal customers can reach a GSA point of contact on the hotline numbers below. These hotlines are open to all customers 24 hours a day.

GSA Hotline serving customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas: (817) 978-2210 or send e-mail at actiongsa@gsa.gov.

GSA Hotline serving customers in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina: **(404) 224-2222** or send e-mail at katrinasupport@gsa.gov.

Additionally, FirstGov.gov provides links on the latest hurricane relief and assistance. Users can find information on a wide range of issues, including what government is doing, health and safety, as well as how to make contributions to the relief effort. Go to URL: http://www.firstgov.gov/Government/Government_Gateway.shtml

Associates complete Project Management training

FTS associate Bill Lively recently completed the requirements for a Master's Certificate in Project Management. Bill is a project manager supporting the San Antonio/South Texas field office. The training program is part of the Information Technology Project Management Certification encouraged by the Office of Management and Budget and actively supported by GSA's Office of the Chief Information Officer. To reach a certificate level, participants take multiple courses in various project management areas and pass an exam at the end of each course. The certificate program is a partnership with ESI, a training contractor, and George Washington University's School of Business and Public Management.

Three other FTS associates, Dale Shogren, Janelle Feltman, and Rose Soria, recently received certification as Project Management Professionals through the Project



Pictured left to right:
Marcella Banks, Dale Shogren, Rose Soria,
Janelle Feltman, and George Prochaska.

Management Institute, the world's leading professional association for project management. To obtain this certification, individuals must satisfy education and experience requirements and pass a rigorous examination. The certification is recognized worldwide as the standard for measuring an individual's core knowledge, understanding, and application of project management principles and practices.

Dale Shogren is a project manager in the FTS Oklahoma/Arkansas field office; Rose Soria and Janelle Feltman are project managers in the FTS San Antonio/South Texas field office.



Bill Lively (center), pictured with Marcella Banks, Assistant Regional Administrator for FTS, and George Prochaska, Greater Southwest Region Deputy Regional Administrator.

Telecommunications Local Services contract awarded for Louisiana



The Greater Southwest Region announced the award of the Local Services Acquisition (LSA) contract GS07T05BGD0008 to BellSouth. This is an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) telecommunications local services contract for areas within the State of Louisiana. The LSA has a base period of two years with three one-year options, and offers a wide range of voice and digital local services.

These offerings include both circuit switched and dedicated transmission services, extending from a single analog line to Primary Rate Interface (PRI) services, to point-to-point data connectivity, to DSL. For analog "Centrex-type" service, this BellSouth award will provide federal agencies a 45 percent cost savings over tariff rates. For information, contact: Bobby Davis, (817) 978-0107.

GSA Administrator Perry to leave GSA

After serving more than four years as the Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Stephen A. Perry announced his plan to leave that position effective October 31, 2005. Perry was appointed to this position by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 31, 2001. He is one of the longest serving Administrators of GSA in recent history.

Bibb Named Acting Administrator for GSA

David L. Bibb, deputy administrator of GSA, will begin serving as the agency's acting administrator on November 1. As the second-ranking official at GSA, Bibb worked closely with Administrator Perry and other members of the GSA senior leadership team.

Regional Acting FAS Assistant Regional Administrators and Deputy Regional Administrators Named

The establishment of the Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) moved another step forward upon the naming of the individuals who will fill key leadership roles as acting assistant regional administrators and acting deputy assistant regional administrators in the FAS zonal offices. The acting leadership for the six FAS zonal offices and the designated headquarters for each zone is as follows.

ZONE A: New England Region and *Northeast & Caribbean Region
Acting FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Steve Ruggiero
Acting Deputy FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Sharon Wall

*Denotes zonal headquarters

ZONE B: Mid-Atlantic Region and *National Capital Region
Acting FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Jack Williams
Acting Deputy FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Paul McDermott

ZONE C: *Southeast-Sunbelt Region
Acting FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Randall Witty
Acting Deputy FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Bill Sisk

ZONE D: Great Lakes Region, *Heartland Region, and Rocky Mountain Region
Acting FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Jim Ogden
Acting Deputy FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Michael Gelber

ZONE E: *Greater Southwest Region
Acting FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Marcella Banks
Acting Deputy FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Tyree Varnado

ZONE F: *Pacific Rim Region and Northwest/Arctic Region
Acting FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, John Boyan
Acting Deputy FAS Assistant Regional Administrator, Gary Casteel



Marcella Banks



Tyree Varnado

Greater Southwest Region FTS at your service . . .

Serving Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and the Americas



FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICE

Assistant Regional Administrator

Marcella Banks

817 978-2871

Customer Service Team Managers:

San Antonio/South Texas

Roy LaBuff

210 341-8300

(includes El Paso, TX for Network Services)

North Texas

Sandra Marquart

817 978-3537

Central/Southeast Texas/the Americas

(Acting)

Cindy Cwiklinski

817 978-0662

Oklahoma/Arkansas

Paul McDaniel

405 609-8081

Louisiana

Michael Loria

504 589-4348

New Mexico

(Acting)

Paulie Sosebee

817 978-0001

(includes El Paso, TX for IT Solutions and Professional Services)

CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM) AND SALES

Director

Russell Colomo

817 978-4079

CRM and Sales Representatives:

Lead

Karen LaBoon

817 978-2372

Joey Phelps

817 978-3767

Paulette Sepulvado

817 978-3230

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Director

Sharon O'Toole

817 978-3687

NETWORK SERVICES

Director

Sylvia Hernandez

817 978-3709

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Director

Susan Houser

817 978-4087

ACQUISITION SERVICES

Director

Jill LaDuca

817 978-3240

HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Director

Marjorie Readout

817 978-4177

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Director

Michael Daniel

817 978-3952

GSA e-Mail address format:

firstname.lastname@gsa.gov

On-line ordering system:

<http://it-solutions.gsa.gov>

For more information about the Greater Southwest Region FTS, visit URL:

<http://www.gsa.gov/greatersouthwest>